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Construction of a masonry bridge across Sengal Odai near Koovathur, Udaiyarpalayam taluk.

* 1363 *Q*.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri K. R. Viswanathan is not in his place. The answer to the question will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 1299, dated 30th July 1953—

(*a*) whether the investigation of the scheme of constructing a masonry dam across Sengal Odai near Koovathur in Andimadam Firka, Udayarpalayam taluk, has been completed ; and

(*b*) if so, what further action has been taken since then?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No. The question whether lower riparian rights will be affected is being examined by the Collector and hence further action in the matter will be taken only after a decision is reached in this regard."

* 1364 *Q*.—

SRI A RATNAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்தப் பிரச்னையைப்பற்றி விவாதிப்பதற்கு அரை மணி நேரம் அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. எனவே, இன்று மாலை இதுவிஷயமாக விவாதிப்பதற்கு அரை மணி நேரம் அனுமதிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கின்றேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the question be first answered." 10-50 a.m.

Construction of platforms for the removal of untouchability.

SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of plinths so far constructed in the State for the removal of untouchability ;

(*b*) the approximate cost per plinth and the total amount spent in March 1954;

(*c*) the amount sanctioned for the construction of such plinths in 1954–55 ; and

(*d*) whether any social functions have taken place on the plinths and how the plinths have benefited the cause of removal of untouchability?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) 583 platforms.

" (*b*) Rs. 340 a platform.
Total cost—Rs. 1,88,075.

" (*c*) No amount has yet been sanctioned for 1954–55.

" (*d*) No social functions have so far been held on these platforms. Whether the platforms actually help the cause of removal of untouchability can be ascertained only after the platforms are put to use."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know whether the construction of a platform contributes to the removal of untouchability among the masses? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" This is a communal platform where the so-called untouchables and others can meet and thus there may be fusion of all the communities which is necessary for the removal of untouchability."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த மேடைகளெல்லாம் அநேகமாக ஹரிஜனச் சேரிகளுக்கு முன்னதாகத்தான் கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. எனக்குத் தெரிந்தவரையில் ஒரு ஜாதி இந்துகூட இந்த மேடைகளுக்குச் சென்று அதன்மீது நெல் காயவைத்ததுகூட கிடையாது. ஆகையால், இந்தமாதிரி மேடைகளை ஜாதி இந்துக்கள் வசிக்கக்கூடிய தெருக்களின் முன்னால் கட்டி, அவைகளை ஹரிஜனங்கள் உபயோகப்படுத்தும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்வதற்கு மந்திரி அவர்கள் முயற்சிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Then the Harijans will not be allowed to go into that locality. At any rate, those of the platforms which have got a good roofing are used by them for celebrating marriages, etc."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that the platforms constructed in Malabar are not at all useful for the removal of untouchability or for any other purpose as far as humanity in that region is concerned? Malabar has incessant rains for four months in a year, and the platforms without roofs could not be used during those four months. Apart from this, the platforms are away from residential areas. Was not this fact brought to the notice of the Government during a meeting of the Provincial Advisory Committee for Harijan Uplift? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" We have to carry out these things in all the districts. Therefore, Malabar cannot be excluded."

SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN :—" பிளாட்பாரம் கட்டுவதற்காக ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் பணம் செலவு செய்யப்படுகிறதா ? அந்தப் பிளாட்பாரங்களால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான பிரயோஜனமும் ஏற்படாமலிருப்பதால், அப்படிச் செலவு செய்யும் பணத்தை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வேறு வகையில் உபயோகிக்க அரசாங்கம் முன்வருவார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" We have discontinued the construction of these platforms now."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" A printed copy of a reply to another question is placed on the table of the House and in it, it is said that the platform would serve as a community centre and will be provided with a radio set, library, etc. Is it the intention of the Government to merely stop with the construction of the platform or also to provide them with a radio set and other amenities so as to offer an attraction to the Harijans and other communities in the village to gather on the platform? "

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The platform itself will serve as a community centre. As I said, in almost all the places platforms have been constructed and there is no need for constructing any more platforms."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" தீண்டாமையை நீக்குவதற்காக கட்டப்பட்ட பிளாட்பாரங்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களால் உபயோகப்படுத்தப்படுவதில்லை என்பதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்றால் ஹரிஜன சேரிகள், ஜாதி இந்தக்கள் வசிக்கும் இடங்களிலிருந்து ரொம்ப தூரத்தில் இருப்பதுதான். அதிக தூரததில் இருப்பதால் அவைகளை உபயோகப்படுத்த முடியாத நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆகவே ஹரிஜனச் சேரிகளை ஜாதி இந்துக்கள் இருக்கக்கூடிய இடததிற்கு சமீபத்தில் கட்டுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

SRI S. THINAKARASAMY THEVAR :—" Is it a fact that both Harijans and Caste Hindus are frequently using these platforms? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, in several places they are using them."

Appointment of Chief Professor in English in the Presidency College.

* 1365 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the vacancy of the post of the Chief Professor in English in the Presidency College, Madras, has been filled up and if not, why not; and

(*b*) whether there was a strike of the students in IV B.A. class of the above college in the second term of the academic year 1953–54, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The post of Chief Professor of English, Presidency College, has been filled up, with effect from 25th January 1954.

" (*b*) There was nothing which could at all be called a 'strike' of the students. A large number of men students of the IV B.A. class abstained from attending the Shakespeare classes taken by Srimathi G. Parthasarathy, the then Additional Professor of English, on the 16th, 19th and 23rd November 1953.

The reason for the students abstaining from attending the Shakespeare classes taken by the Additional Professor of English was that on the 12th November 1953 the Professor went to her class about 10 minutes late as she was held up in her room on account of a departmental meeting. The Class had in the meantime, become restless. Just as she entered the class, she heard the men students making cat-calls and otherwise creating noise. The girl students however were keeping quiet. Since the men-students were responsible for